

1       1. A method of controlling a processor-based system  
2 comprising:

3           receiving video information from a camera;  
4           analyzing said information; and  
5           controlling the power consumption state of said  
6 system based on said video information.

1       2. The method of claim 1 further controlling the  
2 operation of system utilities based on said video  
3 information.

1       3. The method of ~~claim 1~~ further controlling the  
2 operation of a screen saver based on said information.

1       4. The method of claim 1 wherein analyzing said  
2 information includes calculating a luminance value from  
3 said video information.

1       5. The method of claim 4 including determining  
2 whether said luminance value has changed by a given amount.

1       6. The method of claim 5 including determining  
2 whether the luminance value has changed by a given amount  
3 for a given time period.

1           7. The method of claim 4 including determining a  
2 value indicative of whether the video information indicates  
3 motion.

1           8. The method of claim 7 including determining  
2 whether said motion has persisted for a given period of  
3 time.

1           9. The method of claim 8 including using said value  
2 to control the power consumption state of said system.

1           10. An article comprising a medium for storing  
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to:  
3           analyze video information, and  
4           control the power consumption state of said  
5 system based on said video information.

1           11. The article of claim 10 further storing  
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to control  
3 the operation of system utilities based on said video  
4 information.

1           12. The article of claim 10 further storing  
2 instructions that cause a processor-based system to control  
3 the operation of a screen saver based on said information.

1           13. The article of claim 10 further storing  
2        instructions that cause a processor-based system to  
3        calculate a luminance value from said video information and  
4        to use said luminance value to control the power  
5        consumption state of said system.

1           14. The article of claim 13 further storing  
2        instructions that cause a processor-based system to  
3        determine whether said luminance value has changed by a  
4        given amount.

1           15. The article of claim 14 further storing  
2        instructions that cause a processor-based system to  
3        determine whether the luminance value has changed by a  
4        given amount for a given time period.

1           16. The article of claim 14 further storing  
2        instructions that cause a processor-based system to  
3        determine a value indicative of whether the video  
4        information indicates motion.

1           17. The article of claim 16 further storing  
2        instructions that cause a processor-based system to  
3        determine whether said motion has persisted for a given  
4        period of time.

1        18. The article of claim 17 further storing  
2        instructions that cause a processor-based system to use  
3        said motion information to control the power consumption  
4        state of said system.

1        19. The article of claim 10 further storing  
2        instructions that cause a processor-based system to  
3        determine whether the lights are on proximate to the  
4        system.

1        20. A method of controlling a processor-based system  
2        comprising:  
3                receiving video information;  
4                analyzing said information to develop luminance  
5        information; and  
6                controlling the operation of software on said  
7        system based on said luminance information.

1        21. The method of claim 20 further including  
2        controlling the power consumption state of said system  
3        based on said luminance information.

1        22. The method of claim 20 further including  
2        controlling the operation of a screen saver based on said  
3        luminance information.

3.

1        23. The method of claim 20 further including  
2        controlling the operation of system utilities based on said  
3        luminance information.

4.

1        24. The method of claim 24 including determining  
2        whether the video information indicates motion.

1        25. An article comprising a medium for storing  
2        instructions that cause a processor-based system to:  
3                analyze video information to develop luminance  
4        information; and  
5                control the operation of software on said system  
6        based on said luminance information.

1        26. The article of claim 25 further storing  
2        instructions that cause a processor-based system to control  
3        one or more of the power consumption state of said system,  
4        a screen saver, or system utilities, based on said  
5        luminance information.

*Sub*  
*B1*    27. The article of claim 26 further storing  
1        instructions that cause a processor-based system to  
2        determine whether the video information indicates motion.

1           28. A processor-based system comprising:  
2            a processor, said processor coupled to a storage  
3            device;  
4            a digital camera coupled to said processor; and  
5            said storage device storing software that  
6            controls the power consumption state of said system based  
7            on information received from said camera.

1           29. The system of claim 28 wherein said software  
2            controls the power consumption state of said system based  
3            on information from said camera indicative of motion  
4            proximate to said camera.

1           30. The system of claim 28 wherein said software  
2            controls the operation of system utilities based on  
3            information from said digital camera.